

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

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length of a man's arm. They were worth forty or fifty dollars a string, but have fallen in value, especially amongst the young.¹ The copper plates which are so highly valued on the northwestern coast may be esteemed holy on account of the ring in them. Slaves are killed and their flesh is used as bait in catching the dentalium snails, perhaps in order to get a mystic idea into the shells of the snails.²

152. "Wampumpeag and roanoke. On the Atlantic coast shell money was made on Long Island Sound and at Narragansett from the shell of the round clam, in two colors, white and purple, the latter from the dark spot in the shell. These were bugles, the hole running in the thickness of the shell. They were called wampumpeag, were sewed on deer or other fine skins, and the belts thus made were used to emphasize points in negotiation or in treaties, or in speeches. Farther down the coast beads were made like flat button molds, with holes bored through them perpendicularly to the plane of the shell, and called roanoke. These beads, of both kinds, but especially of the former kind, spread by exchange into the Mississippi Valley, and in the middle of the nineteenth century they had reached the upper waters of the Missouri River.

153. Ring money; use of metal. The standpoint of the Vedic hymns is that the cow is the real measure of value, but metal, especially gold, is used for money in the payment of penalties and weregild. The objects at stake in formulae of oaths and of duels were estimated in gold.³ There was therefore a pure gold currency. In ancient India, however, silver and copper were also used and locally some coins of lead and mixed metals occurred. In value one of gold equaled ten of silver, and one of silver forty of copper.⁴ The most ancient money of China consisted of shells,⁵ also of knives and dress patterns of silk.⁶ The knives had rings at the end of the handle and were gradually reduced to rings of metal as money.⁷ The same ancient king who established measures of length and capacity is the legendary author of money (2697 B.C.). He fixed the five objects of exchange, — beads, jade, gold, knives, textiles. The sign for money was combined of the signs for "shell" and «to exchange.»⁸ We hear that the

Chinese emperor, 119 B.C., gave to his vassals squares of white deerskin, about one foot on a side, embroidered on the hem. He who had one of these could get an audience of the emperor.⁹ We are inclined to connect with that usage the use of a scarf of bluish-white silk in central Asia, which was used in all greetings and ceremonies. A certain quality of this scarf was used in places as the unit of value.¹⁰ Przewalsky mentions the chadak

¹ Powers, 21.

⁵ Ridgeway, 21.

² Schurz, 25.

⁶ Vissering, *Chinese Currency*.

⁸ Jolly, *Recht und Sitte*, 96.

⁷ Ridgeway, 156.

* JASB, II, 214.

⁸ Puini, *Le Origine della Cimitia*, 64; *Century Diet.*, s.v. "Knife-money."

⁹ Vissering, *Chinese Currency*^ 38.

¹⁰ *U.S. Nat. Mus.* ^

1893, 723-